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Worldwide Report

LAW OF THE SEA

No. 208

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INTER-ASIAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

JSP SEEKS TO NEGOTIATE FISHING ACCORD--Yamaguchi, 28 Aug (KYODO)--Japan Socialist Party Chief Ichio Asukata said here Saturday he will ask the government to invite a North Korean negotiator to resume talks on a bilateral fishery agreement that expired at the end of June. Speaking to reporters, he also said he wants the 2-year private agreement elevated to the status of a government agreement. The agreement expired after the Japanese Government rejected a planned visit of North Korea's chief negotiator Hyon Jun-guk to Tokyo. Japan has no diplomatic relations with North Korea. Several Japanese fishing boats have been seized in North Korea's exclusive fishing zone since the agreement lapsed. [Text] [OW281111 Tokyo KYODO in English 1000 GMT 28 Aug 82]

CSO: 5200/2118

EDITORIALS LAMENT U.S. FAILURE TO SIGN LAW OF SEA TREATY

U.S. Policy Shift

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 19 Jul 82 p 6

[Editorial]

[Excerpts] America's decision not to sign the law of the sea convention comes as a blow after more than a decade of painstaking global negotiation. But it does not mean that those historic talks have been in vain.

To those countries such as Australia that have worked as catalysts for consensus, the vexing thing about America's refusal to sign the treaty is that under the Carter administration agreement had been all but reached. Under Mr Reagan's presidency the U.S. suddenly took fright.

The main threat posed by America's reluctance to come to the party is that other countries may develop doubts about the viability of the proposed international mining corporation--known simply as "The Enterprise." It will cost about \$2000 million to set up and without an American contribution there will be a sizeable gap in the fund-raising.

But there is a long way to go. Even for the most advanced countries commercial mining of manganese, nickel, copper and cobalt from the ocean floor is several years off and many people who have been close to the negotiations including the leader of the Australian delegation, Mr Keith Brennan are confident that American support will be forthcoming in that time.

There is little doubt that with Japan and European nations taking part, the international corporation would get the technology it required. And it is unlikely the argument goes, that American mining companies and investors would be happy to see their country go on being the odd man out in such a major international co-operative effort.

Disappointment, as expressed by the Foreign Affairs Minister, Mr Street, may be too weak a word to sum up Australia's feelings about the Reagan administration's stance. And doubtless Canberra will continue trying to persuade Washington to change its mind. But with or without U.S. involvement, the degree of international co-operation achieved makes the law of the sea convention an enormously significant development.

'Short-Sighted' Step

Melbourne THE AGE in English 22 Jul 82 p 11

[Editorial]

[Text] President Reagan's decision to reject the Law of the Sea treaty due to be signed by 130 nations at the end of this year is greatly to be regretted. It has taken nearly a decade of concerted international effort to produce this document of understanding designed to determine, once and for all, the future of the oceans and what lies in them. American diplomacy helped to initiate the process leading to this rare accommodation of interests and ideologies. Every nation involved has had to make concessions and accept compromises. No one has pretended that the arrangements are perfect. But most nations have pursued the common goal in the knowledge that much wider concerns are in force than the narrow dictates of nationalism. The spirit in which negotiations have been conducted is an example of how much can be achieved on a global scale.

Yet the United States, it is now apparent, is not prepared to recognise the concept of the oceans as the heritage of all mankind. It argues that any nation with the money and technology required for mining the seabed is entitled to do so for its own benefit alone even in international waters. In purely economic terms this reasoning may seem to make sense. But American mining companies will need the safeguards of the international seabed law. Without them the companies may be unable to procure insurance protection, rendering enterprise on the high seas an even riskier and more expensive procedure.

But there is much more than money at stake both in the scope of the treaty and in the implications of rejecting it. The United States will also be declining to accept territorial provisions which could settle hundreds of international disputes, some of them violent, and make two-thirds of the Earth's surface safer for trade and travel. Washington's decision may, indeed, create a few new disputes as the United States tests its own understanding of the law against the tenets of the treaty. Moreover, the United States will put at risk its standing in the international community and encourage the belief that Washington is not interested in seeking a more equitable distribution of wealth in a world where, if the rich are not getting much richer, the poor are certainly getting poorer.

The Law of the Sea treaty is, in effect, the first real trial in the great North-South debate about which so many brave words are being spoken. If the Reagan Administration is really concerned about American economic interests, it should consider further that the United States now sells more goods to developing countries than to Western Europe and Japan combined. It is in the light of all this that Mr Reagan's judgment must be seen: as a short-sighted and counterproductive step that Americans will come to regret.

CSO: 5200/7555

WORK OF BASS STRAIT OFFSHORE OIL RIGS DESCRIBED

Canberra THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN in English 10-11 Jul 82 p 5

[Article by Brendan Donohoe]

[Excerpts]

ABOUT 250km south-east of Melbourne, 10 offshore oil and gas platforms are operating 24 hours a day, year round, supplying crude oil for 90 per cent of the nation's petrol, and producing more natural and liquified petroleum gas than demand can handle.

The figures for the Esso-BHP Bass Strait operation are staggering. If it shut down for just one day, the Federal Government would lose \$10 million in taxes, royalties and excise duties.

Overall, the Government receives an estimated 10 per cent of its annual revenue from Bass Strait and remains thankful that the rigs in the treacherous ocean promise to be active well into the next century.

While that may be comforting to the nation, Government and Esso-BHP, there is a constant threat hanging over this essential industry.

Industrial relations with the "iron men of the sea" are always troublesome. The company has to walk a fine line between the effect union demands have on the national interest and its own profits.

On the Mackerel platform, 65km offshore from Sale, up to

56 men work in tight conditions. Accommodation is clean but small. The comforts of home include color television, a movie cassette recorder and billiards.

But the drawbacks are many. In the average shift of two weeks on, two weeks off, the men, (there have been no successful female applicants yet), work from 6am to 6pm, 14 days in a row. No alcohol is permitted and strict safety procedures apply when working in the open.

Jobs on the platforms can be very specialised. Wayne McGraith, for instance, is one of the six-man diving crew on Mackerel. Working a seven days on, seven days off, 12 hour a day shift, Mr McGraith can spend up to six days in the pressurised diving bell.

He becomes a virtual prisoner in the steel shell, apart from when he is diving to a depth of about 70m in the rough seas to check pipelines and inspect new welds.

At the end of the week, the divers spend about 24 hours decompressing before they are given the "freedom" of walking around the decks.

Each platform in Bass Strait has a diving crew of five and one supervisor. The divers are members of the Professional Divers Association and can earn up to \$45,000 a year.

BASS STRAIT LEADS IN GROWING OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 13 Jul 82 pp 23, 25

[Article by Stephen Bartholomeusz]

[Text]

THE collapse of the much-vaunted resources boom may have left the sharemarket and mining industry in tatters, but Bass Strait retains its special status in the Australian economy.

While other projects are being downgraded, mothballed, or abandoned, the tempestuous Strait is the scene of the most intense activity it has experienced in the 17 years since gas was first discovered in Victoria's offshore Gippsland Basin.

The activity in the Strait will become more frenzied next year, when the newcomers to enter Esso-BHP's traditional preserves get fully into their still-infant programs.

Bass Strait activity has been protected from the impact of flat crude oil prices and the effect of tumbling commodity prices and high interest rates of the mining industry because of its peculiar significance to Australia.

Despite hectic drilling activity throughout its short production history, the Strait remains the dominant supplier of Australian crude oil.

About 94 percent of domestic crude production comes from a relatively small area off the Victorian coast.

Despite fluctuations in world crude oil prices, oil remains a finite resource.

With Esso-BHP production forecast to fall from its present level of about 140 million barrels a year to about 83 million by 1990 a sense of urgency has been bred in the search for new reserves.

In July last year, when the cracks had already started to widen in the facade of euphoria which coated anything to do with resources, Esso-BHP unveiled plans

to spend \$160 million on Bass Strait oil exploration.

The massive program called for the drilling of 30 exploration wells in the offshore Gippsland Basin over three years, the most concerted program ever envisaged for the region.

The scale of the plans is highlighted by comparison with the 75 wells drilled at a cost of \$123 million over the past 17 years in the Strait.

Although there have been recent occasions when oil flows have been announced and the company's share price has fallen, and although resource companies of all shapes and sizes have come under increasing pressure from the downturn in the international economy, the program goes ahead as planned.

"The program hasn't changed, it is still going ahead. It's not in the boom and gloom and doom thing," an Esso spokesman said.

"If you don't explore you don't find the rotten stuff. You've got to keep finding it because you take out more every day."

The need to keep finding the "rotten stuff" is growing more urgent.

Initial recoverable liquid reserves in the Gippsland Basin amount to about 3800 million barrels.

Cumulative production totals about 1500 million barrels and is running at an annual rate of about 135 million barrels a year.

Unless new reserves are found, the existing reserves will be exhausted by the turn of the century.

The Esso-BHP activity is not just confined to its exploration program.

Bass Strait production expenditure has also been stepped up as the joint venture seeks to offset declining production from the large older fields with develop-

ment of the newer and smaller fields.

"Topping up the barrel," was a phrase used by one BHP executive.

The motivation for bringing the smaller fields into production is not just the maintenance of volume.

Under the import parity pricing arrangements Esso-BHP gets a bigger percentage of revenue from the small and medium-sized fields.

The pricing arrangements are a major factor in the program to develop the Fortescue Field, classified as "new" oil (post-1975) and therefore attracting a full import parity price.

Fortescue will be the next major field developed in Bass Strait, with the platform due to be launched next month, although full production won't be reached until 1984 at the earliest.

Fortescue is part of a \$1000 million production program investment running concurrently with the exploration drive.

The West Kingfish platform is in place and production wells are being drilled; Cobia's wells will start to be drilled in about three months and Flounder is at the launching stage.

Fortescue will complete the program and the joint venture will take a breather before deciding future production development.

Despite the activity Bass Strait operations will move into a depletion phase after 1985 unless there are significant discoveries.

Without new finds, production is expected to fall to about 100,000 barrels a day by the mid 1990s.

World and domestic pricing structures will then become the key to Bass Strait's contribution to Australian energy requirements.

The Strait has a less visible importance than its contribution to the national energy equation.

It is also Victoria's major resource project.

More than 1000 people work on the fabrication of the platforms at the Barry beach facility in Sale and each drilling unit employs another 60 people.

The Strait also provides massive royalties to the state government which, as the introduction of Fortescue approaches, will increase.

The government takes 12.5 percent at wellhead from primary licences and 10 percent from secondary licences.

This year the state government take will amount to about \$180 million.

The government also gains another \$20 million a year through the recently introduced pipeline fee, a sore point with the joint venture which is contesting the ability of the government to levy the licence fee.

In the federal sphere, the levy arrangements constitute a major proportion of government revenues.

In 1980 the federal government's total offtake of Bass Strait revenue amounted to just over \$3000 million.

Last year it totalled about \$3700 million.

Despite the gloomy prognostications Bass Strait remains one of the most prospective areas for new oil discoveries in Australia.

Its potential was first seen by Dr Lewis Weeks, the ageing US geologist who persuaded BHP to abandon its permits in the offshore Sydney Basin and search the inhospitable Strait, an area he had not even seen.

It should be noted that Dr Weeks' faith in the Strait won him the nickname "two and a half percent," for the royalty he extracted from BHP.

There is still great faith in Bass Strait, particularly the Gippsland Basin.

Last year 154 companies in 28 groups scrambled to tender for three of the four areas of the Strait relinquished by Esso-BHP.

Details of the tenders have not been disclosed and the winning consortia are reluctant to talk about their plans, but one of the losing tenderers for V80-2 planned to spend more than \$128 million over the six-year life of the permit, drilling more than 10 wells and shooting more than 400 km of seismic.

Other losers said they had bid higher comparatively than for any other acreage in Australia.

The losing tenderers included several world oil majors.

The list of those who won is an interesting comment on the state of the resources boom at the time of the tender.

Vic 80-1 is held by a consortium of the French-owned Australian Aquitaine, Australian Occidental (US-owned), Alliance Resources, Australian Gas Light Company and Cluff Oil (then of the UK).

The consortium defeated seven other tenders comprising 54 companies.

Vic 80-2 went to Phillips Australian Oil (US), Lend Lease and MIM.

Vic 80-3 was the most sought after area, attracting 13 tenders from 57 companies.

Headed by Shell, the winning tender included News Corporation, TNT, Crusader Oil and Mincorp Offshore.

Vic 80-4 was passed in due to an unexplained lack of interest.

The Vic 80-3 consortium particularly tells its own story about the resources boom.

The euphoria which the term "resources" generated saw a number of industrial companies, too big to devote their entire energies to the mining and energy business (as some of

the smaller industrial companies did), decide they wanted to have at least some stake in the action.

Those winning consortia are now starting to drill in the Strait, after a lengthy period of evaluation.

Although the excitement in the energy industry has abated in the last 12 months, the number of well drilled in Bass Strait is unlikely to taper off.

One senior exploration manager with a winning consortium said the obligations under the permit agreement with the Victorian Government meant that there could be no tapering off of the programs, although it was now unlikely that any of the groups would commit themselves above their obligations.

The Shell-led group has drilled its first well in the Strait, the Hammerhead One well.

It was plugged and abandoned last month after failing to find any indications of hydrocarbons.

Despite the disappointment Shell is chartering a new rig for its Bass Strait program.

Another exploration well will be drilled in the permit area before the end of the year and between two and six wells next year.

Phillips is expected to drill its first well next month.

The activity starting to swell from the tender last year carries no guarantee of success,

although mining analysts and geologists believe there is still potential for large finds.

The success ratio for Bass Strait is historically about one in four.

The newcomers to the Strait are seeking smaller and more subtle structures than those uncovered by Esso-BHP in the earlier scrutinies of the area, almost halving the chances of success.

Shell and Phillips are considered to have the best chances of finding large structures — fields of more than 500 million barrels.

Acquitaine is seeking the smaller 20 million or 50 million barrel structures.

Bass Strait is no Exmouth Plateau, but the cost of drilling is still high. Industry experts say the cost of once-off wells in the Strait ranges between \$8 million and \$12 million.

For Esso-BHP, which tends to drill wells back to back, the cost ranges between \$5 million and \$8 million.

Just to charter a drill ship costs about \$150,000 a day.

The other consortium active in the Gippsland Basin is the Hudbay-Gas and Fuel Corporation-Beach Petroleum group.

Last year the group caused a few chuckles when its first well in its Bic P-11 permit struck oil.

The chuckles related to Beach, an oil exploration company which for 20 years before the West Seashorse 1 well had not struck oil.

The consortium has now drilled the four wells of its initial program with some small success, including minor hydrocarbon shows and a gas flow.

It is not expected to do anything more in the Strait this year, having met its drilling commitments.

CSO: 5200/7552

AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

OFFSHORE OIL OUTPUT--Melbourne--Gas shows had been encountered in the Seahorse No 2 well in Bass Strait, Esso-BHP said yesterday. Two cores were cut from the well which is being drilled to test an oil discovery made in Seahorse No 1 in 1978. The well is at its total depth of 2021 metres. [Text] [Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 22 Jul 82 p 17]

JAPANESE SHIP VIOLATION--A Japanese fishing ship captain was convicted in the Brisbane Magistrate's Court yesterday of having been in charge of the ship inside an Australian fishing zone. Norio Oyama of Kesenuma Ski, Miyati Ken, captain of the Yahata Maru No 58 on May 8 last year has pleaded not guilty. Oyama was fined \$2000 and ordered to pay costs. Mr Evans, SM said he believed the ship was not fishing when it was sighted by the Lake Hume off the northern New South Wales coast. He accepted the evidence of the Lake Hume's second mate, Graham David Edgley of the Japanese ship's position. Oyama had agreed he might have wandered into the 12 nautical mile limit off South Solitary Island while recovering a broken line. Mr Evans said the onus was on the captain to ensure he did not breach the terms of his license. [Text] Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 27 Jul 82 p 8]

BASS STRAIT GAS--Chronic shipping problems in Bass Strait were a major factor in a 4 percent decline to 69.4 million barrels in Australia's June half-year production of crude oil and condensate compared with a year ago. The preliminary output figures compiled by the Australian Petroleum Exploration Association show that a 9.2 percent decline to 34.5 million barrels in March quarter production was followed by a 1.7 percent recovery to 34.9 million barrels in the June quarter. Despite a two million barrel decline to 65.4 million barrels partly due to the protracted tug boat dispute, Esso-BHP's offshore Gippsland fields accounted for 94 percent of Australia's total crude oil and condensate output for the June half-year. The overall decline meant that Bass Strait's average daily output tapered off from about 372,000 to 361,000 barrels. At the same time, output from Barrow Island dropped from 4.54 million barrels to 3.76 million barrels (5.4 percent of the Australian total) and production from the third largest field--Moonie--tapered off from 151,873 to 139,500 barrels (0.2 percent of the total). There was a partial offset from the Boxleigh-Silver Springs-Thomby Creek group which lifted its half-year figure from 61,915 barrels to 85,803 barrels. Contrasting with the fall-off in crude oil flows sales of natural

gas expanded by 8.1 percent to 189,897 million cubic feet from 175,742 million cubic feet in the first half of 1981. The major boost came from an increase from 69,498 million to 78,491 million cubic feet in sales from the Cooper Basin which is still six months off its debut as a commercial producer of liquids. [Text] [Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 23 Jul 82 p 17]

CRAYFISH CATCH--THE State's crayfishing season has ended with one of the biggest catches on record. Figures provided by the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife show a catch of 11,000 tonnes--the second highest on record and an 11 per cent increase on last year's catch. Fishermen at Jurien Bay had a particularly good season with a 22 per cent increase on last year. The Geraldton area recorded a nine per cent increase and the yield from the area between Fremantle and Lancelin was up seven per cent. Fishermen operating south of Fremantle did not have such a good year and the catch deteriorated as the season went on. [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 15 Jul 82 p 21]

TAIWANESE BOAT INCIDENT--A TAIWANESE fishing vessel arrived in Cairns yesterday with an RAN crew of three aboard after being arrested off Fredrickton Reef within Australia's fishing zone. The vessel, with 14 Taiwanese fishermen aboard, is now lying under police guard beside a wharf in Cairns Harbor. The boat was sighted a week ago near the reef by an RAAF patrol aircraft. The HMAS Warrnambool immediately put to sea with an officer of the Commonwealth Fisheries on board. The Warrnambool surprised the craft fishing on the Frederickton Reef which is east of Rockhampton in the early hours of Monday morning. A navy boarding party led by Lieutenant Peter Gillan, of Grafton, NSW, went aboard with Commonwealth Fisheries officer Mr Greg Burnege. At Cairns wharf the fishing boat was met by armed police, customs officers, quarantine officers, Queensland Department of Agriculture officials and a Crown Prosecutor, Mr Ken Bates, who is with the Commonwealth Crown Solicitor's office in Brisbane. Mr Bates and Mr Ted Collins, the senior investigation officer for the Commonwealth Department of Fisheries, took two bags containing evidence from the vessel. Mr Bates said later that any resultant charges against the skipper, Mr Ruei Shih, of Taipei, would be laid on Monday. Mr Collins said samples of giant clam flesh and charts had been taken from the boat. [Canberra THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN in English 17-18 Jul 82 p 6]

CSO: 5200/7554

BULGARIA

BRIEFS

EXPLORATION OF BULGARIAN SHELF--Varna, 26 Aug (BTA)--The Soviet research vessels "Evpatoria" and "Geokhimic" arrived here. They shall take part in the Bulgaro-Soviet expedition exploring the natural resources of the Bulgarian shelf. Under the leadership of Dobrinski, the team of the vessel "Evpatoria," a possession of the Academy of Sciences of the Soviet Union, will carry out one-month geologic and geophysical researches under a complex target-oriented programme. For a sixth time in succession the drilling vessel of "Geokhimic" captained by Grigoriev will explore new underwater terrains in the shelf zone. Bulgarian researchers and specialists are taking an active part in the two expeditions of the Soviet vessels. [Text] [Sofia BTA in English 0815 GMT 26 Aug 82]

CSO: 5200/2118

OFFICIAL ELABORATES ON KRILL PROJECT WITH USSR

Buenos Aires CONVICCION in Spanish 25 Jul 82 p 12

[Text] The secretary of maritime interests, Rear Adm Ciro Garcia, said yesterday in Mar del Plata that "commercialization" of krill in the South Atlantic will be done in association with the Soviet Union.

"This initiative has been taken," the official said, "now that we have an agreement and we are really determined to undertake those projects with that country." He believed that "the results will be immediate, because Soviet ships are the ones that will be engaged with Argentines making up part of the crew. They will begin operations from Ushuaia, he explained, and they will be in place within a year or two in the south of the country. On the other hand, fishing will begin at once.

Ciro Garcia said that it is the Ministry of Economy's intention to increase exports in all categories and also in fishing. The official emphasized that pillagings are being experienced along the Atlantic coast, confirming that the situation is under control and without immediate danger in that regard. "On the contrary," he outlined, "I think that at this time some species are under-commercialized." Nevertheless, he considered that in the specific case of fishing for the common hake, the limit is reached, "but the rest composed of a series of species that can be easily marketed are exploited under their potential."

Ciro Garcia said that in actuality "the fishing law is already ended and will soon be taken up by the minister of economy." This law, he explained, "joins a series of regulations aimed at simplifying transactions in order to give it real workability in the area."

The secretariat of maritime interests believes that there are many ships in Argentina that do not operate because they are obsolete and it is necessary to exchange them. "This," he said, "we are going to accomplish by furnishing adequate financial support."

He said also that his trip to Mar del Plata was in response to the need to be in touch with national maritime activities. As is known, 80 percent of the fishing done on the national level has its epicenter in this Atlantic city, as much so in regard to fishing as to subsequent industrialization.

Ciro Garcia was transferred to Mar del Plata where he attended the meeting of the Advisory Fishing Council which functions in that city.

NEW TWIN-TRAWLER FISHING METHOD BEING INTRODUCED

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 4 Aug 82 p 5

[Text]

AN aggressive method of trawling is being introduced in Guyana by the Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Agriculture.

According to Principal Fisheries Officer, Reuben Charles, this aggressive method which is being referred to as 'pair-trawling' should result in the country's artisanal fishermen improving their catch, spending less time at sea, and boosting their income. He said his division hopes to see the country's artisanal fishermen use this method extensively.

The programme is being introduced in four phases with assistance from the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). The third phase—a one-week course for artisanal fishermen — was launched this morning at a simple ceremony at the Greater Georgetown Fishermen's Co-operative Society building on Lombard Street.

Pair-trawling, it was explained, is done by attaching a net between two boats then pulling it along the sea. It is considered one sure method of increasing fish catch within a short space of time at sea. Through the use of this method, fishermen go after the fish rather than wait for

the fish to go to their nets.

At present, fishing is done in Guyana using mainly gill nets, Codellines and Chinese and pin seine. With these methods of fishing, artisanal fishermen contribute over 80 per cent of the fish landed in the country.

Phase one of the programme, held four weeks ago, featured the making of a net suitable for pair-trawling. Phase two facilitated the trial and modification of the gear to suit Guyana's conditions. Phase four should feature visits to several areas by a master fisherman from the FAO, Mr. John Crockette, to see if the method is 'catching on' and to give advice to fishermen who are adopting the method.

During the current one-week course, fishermen will be taken to sea where they will have a first-hand look at how pair-trawling is done.

The course participants are drawn from fishermen's co-operative societies spanning an area from the lower East Coast Demerara, to Marawhanna in the North West District. There is only one participant from the Corentyne. He is expected to share the knowledge gained with his colleagues.

FISHING AGREEMENT CONTACTS WITH EEC RESUMED

Bissau NO PINTCHA in Portuguese 21 Jul 82 p 8

[Text] Our country and the European Economic Community (EEC) have resumed contacts with a view to reaching a fishing agreement; these contacts have been in recess since the last meeting in Brussels. For this purpose the main administrator of the general board for fishing of the EEC, Gunther Weiss, came to our country to meet with Guinean authorities in this sector.

During the meetings, the two parties took up the points discussed at the Brussels meeting. The EEC promised to send to our country, next August, the documents and information on the project containing revisions agreed upon by the two parties, to be reexamined by our authorities in preparation for the next meeting between the two delegations planned for October in Brussels.

As a result of the talks held with our authorities, licenses for fishing in our territorial waters by EEC boats were provisionally renewed for a period of 3 months, containing the new provisions, until the new agreement is signed. Before leaving, the EEC delegate accompanied by an EEC representative in our country was received Monday by Comrade Joseph Turpin, the minister of national resources and formerly responsible for that sector. Secretary of State for Fishing Flavio Proenca was present at the meeting.

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CSO: 5200/5673

MOZAMBIQUE

BRIEFS

S. AFRICAN TRAWLER IMPOUNDED--The Mozambican Navy has impounded the Durban line-fishing vessel, the Plumstead, with a crew of 17. The Plumstead left Durban 2 weeks ago and was scheduled to return last weekend, but did not respond to radio messages from the owner, Mr Hugo (Prigge). When he informed the Durban harbor authorities that the boat was overdue, he was told that the vessel had been impounded in Mozambique. A daily newspaper in Maputo reports that the Mozambican Navy towed the Plumstead into port after it had developed engine trouble. The newspaper says that the vessel's log shows that it had been fishing near (Ponta do Bella). In February Mozambique impounded another Durban based fishing boat, the Hawk, for allegedly fishing in Mozambican territorial waters. Mr (Prigge) says he had instructed the crew of the Plumstead to stay in South African waters. He says he will be in contact with the Mozambican authorities as soon as possible. [Text] [MB311311 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 31 Aug 82]

CSO: 5200/5675

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

DENMARK REFUSES TO HALT NORWAY SHRIMPERS IN GREENLAND WATERS

Fisheries Officer Wanted to Act

Godthab GRONLANDSPOSTEN in Danish 28 Jul 82 p 11

[Text] Fisheries officer John Grusgaard of the Greenland Command had hoped to find a channel to improve control over Norwegians fishing for shrimp off the coast of Greenland, but the ministry turned him down.

The Ministry for Greenland Affairs has effectively put a spoke in the wheels of the Fisheries Inspectorate in Greenland. When the Fisheries Inspectorate asked the ministry's help a short time ago in acquiring data on Norwegian trawlers landing shrimp from Greenland, the response was that "after careful consideration," the ministry did not want to assist in obtaining this information.

The matter came up after the inspection cutter, "Agpa," seized the Norwegian trawler, "Peter Arseth," from Alesund while it was fishing in Sukkertoppen Dyb.

It turned out that this one trawler had neglected to report catching a total of 36 tons of shrimp on two fishing voyages.

This amount, 36 tons of shrimp, corresponds to a wholesale purchase price of close to three-quarters of a million kroner, so the skipper was naturally grateful when he was allowed to sail out of Nuuk after having posted a bank guarantee for the payment of a fine of 150,000 kroner.

Hoped to Find a Channel

No one at Greenland Command in Gronnedal wanted to make a direct comment on the ministry's refusal to cooperate in this matter.

Fisheries officer John Grusgaard told AG [GRONLANDSPOSTEN] that the query was sent to the National Ombudsman in Nuuk and that the Ombudsman sent the request further to the Ministry for Greenland Affairs in Copenhagen.

The request was simple, namely that the ministry ask the Norwegian Fisheries Directorate in Bergen how much Greenland shrimp was brought ashore in Norway in 1982.

"We had hoped we could find a channel making it easier for us to supervise the activities of the Norwegian trawlers off the coast of Greenland," said John Grusgaard.

"The skipper of the 'Peter Arseth' openly admitted that he was trying to 'stretch' the quota by making false reports and of course we cannot avoid some suspicion that other colleagues of his are doing the same thing," John Grusgaard said.

Tougher Sanctions

Fisheries officer John Grusgaard also used the opportunity to express a wish for tougher sanctions against trawlers caught violating the fishing regulations.

"Naturally the size of the fines must be high enough to make it a really painful loss for the skipper and the shipping firm. Otherwise there is no hope of its having a deterrent effect," he said.

"As things are now, it actually pays to fish illegally," concluded John Grusgaard who also felt that confiscation of illegal hauls should be made to a much greater extent and that the wording of the EC ordinance should be resorted to, so that violations can also result in a loss of the fishing license.

Action Demanded From Ministry

Godthab GRONLANDSPOSTEN in Danish 28 Jul 82 p 2

[Editorial: "The Ministry Trips Up"]

[Text] The Ministry for Greenland Affairs is displaying a totally incomprehensible restraint with regard to the Norwegian fishermen who have now been shown on three occasions to have falsified their shrimp reports while fishing off the Greenland coast.

The ministry saw no reason to comply with a request from the Greenland Command that the Norwegian Fisheries Directorate in Bergen be asked for information on wholesale purchases.

We can well understand it if the people in Gronnedal are currently asking themselves something like, "What do we need enemies for, with friends like these?"

It would have been a minor matter for the Greenland Affairs Ministry--perhaps through the Foreign Ministry--to send a request to the Fisheries

Directorate in Bergen and we bet the directorate would probably have given the information about how much Greenland shrimp is being brought ashore by Norwegian fishermen.

The Ministry for Greenland Affairs has defended its rejection of the request from Gronnedal by saying that at the present time, the seizure of only a single Norwegian cutter is involved. That is quite true, but the basis for the Gronnedal request was precisely that it was suspected that information on sales would provide a basis for bringing charges against many more trawlers.

And if it should turn out in the end that all the Norwegians, with the exception of the "Peter Arseth" which was seized first, had clean hands, what harm would be done by finding that out?

As things stand at the moment, only one conclusion can be drawn from the ministry's refusal to pass the query from the Fisheries Inspectorate on to the proper Norwegian authorities. It is true that the Greenland Command has police powers in Greenland waters. That should mean that all authorities within the national community have an interest in supporting the necessary investigations, but that is apparently not the case.

The question is whether this is a situation we can live with. We do not think so. The ministry must revise its view of this matter. It is not the job of the ministry to intervene in a police investigation, let alone to place obstacles in the path of such an investigation.

6578

CSO: 5200/2109

ICELAND CONCERNED OVER FAROES FISHING OF SALMON

Reykjavik NEWS FROM ICELAND in English Sep 82 p 12

[Text]

The fall-off in salmon migrations to Icelandic rivers may stem in part from unknown natural causes. But it is widely believed here that commercial ocean fishing from the anadromous stock in Faroese waters plays a big role in the worrisome trend. If so, corrective steps based on a provision in the draft treaty adopted recently by the International Law of the Seas Conference (NFI, May) are a distinct possibility.

According to law professor Gunnar G. Schram at the University of Iceland, a certain article in the document seems to apply to the problem. But to invoke this provision, he says, it will be necessary to establish what proportion of the salmon taken by Faroese operators originated in Icelandic rivers.

When salmon migrations from one national jurisdiction to another are in evidence, the draft treaty explicitly requires cooperation to protect the stock

from overexploitation. The protocol becomes binding twelve months after ratification by sixty signatories.

Denmark (and hence the Faroes) voted for adoption of the draft in New York last spring and will sign it in the near future. As a result, Schram maintains, these nations already "have at least a moral obligation to honour its provisions."

Apart from the Law of the Seas Treaty, Iceland may seek redress through the instrumentality of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization.

The foundations for this international body were laid at a Reykjavik conference early this year. Invited to become signatories were the United States, Canada, Iceland, the European Economic Community, Denmark (along with the Faroes), Norway and Sweden. The agency is to be headquartered in Edinburgh, Scotland.

CSO: 5200/2119

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

SCHMIDT, JORGENSEN DISCUSS FISHING QUOTA--Bonn, 29 Aug (DPA)--In a talk during an SPD election meeting in Wiesbaden yesterday, Federal Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and Danish Prime Minister Anker Jorgensen failed to reach agreement in the dispute over the quota of catches for German deep-sea fishermen in the area off western Greenland. There had been no agreement in the legal views of the situation taken by the two men, a Bonn government spokesman said today. In his talk with Schmidt Jorgensen said that he would communicate the Danish view in the fishing dispute to the chancellor in a written form. The spokesman said that Schmidt, during his talk with Jorgensen, had expressed much understanding for the very hard conditions of life of the Greenland islanders, for whom fishing is vital. In agreement with the Danish Government Schmidt invited the premier of Greenland, J. Motzfeldt, to visit the Federal Republic. The chancellor was hoping, said the spokesman, that Motzfeldt would visit Bonn in September. [Text] [LD291559 Hamburg DPA in German 1516 GMT 29 Aug 82]

CSO: 5200/2118

WHALING BAN BY 1986 SPELLS DOOM FOR ICELAND INDUSTRY

Reykjavik NEWS FROM ICELAND in English Sep 82 p 3

[Text]

At a meeting in Brighton, U.K., toward the end of July, the International Whaling Commission (IWC) voted to ban all whaling, effective from the beginning of 1986. The motion carried by a margin of 25 to 7, with 5 abstentions. While the development had been expected for a year, it spelled future trouble for a successful Icelandic enterprise, Hvalur hf, which operates a whaling station in Hvalfjörður, some distance north of Reykjavik.

The nations opposing the motion were Brazil, Iceland, Japan, Norway, Peru, South Korea and the Soviet Union. Before the vote, the Japanese and Norwegian delegates served notice that their countries would not honour a worldwide ban on whaling. They argued that scientific justification for the move was limited, and that it ran counter to both the IWC charter and the treaty adopted recently by the International Law of the Seas Conference.

Taken together, Japanese and Norwegian catches have accounted for some 90% of the world exploitation of whale stocks in recent years. Set up in 1948 and active only during the summer months, the SW-Iceland whaling station has always been run in strict compliance with IWC directives; apart from quota constraints, the hunting is limited to four boats. Last year, small-time operators in this

country got the go-ahead for taking 200 minke whales in 1982.

Every summer since 1972, an inspector appointed by the IWC has been posted to the Hvalfjörður facility, with Norwegian and Canadian experts taking turns in the role. Foreign researchers under diverse auspices have been hosted by the company on many occasions in recent years.

Following the Brighton meeting of the IWC, the American delegate, John V. Byrne, made mention of U.S. legislation authorizing economic sanctions against nations defying the whaling ban — comments that predictably made banner headlines in the Reykjavik press. For a long time, the U.S. has been a key market for Icelandic shipments of frozen seafood.

Virtually all Icelandic deliveries in that line to the U.S. are handled by two companies based on the eastern American seaboard: Coldwater Seafood and Iceland Seafood. Respectively, they are affiliated with the Icelandic Freezing Plants Corporation and Samband, the national federation of cooperatives in this country. Over recent decades, each has built up a highly successful distribution network in the U.S.

In his initial remarks on the IWC whaling ban, Fisheries Minister Steingrímur Hermannsson (Progressive) was cir-

cumspect. "We have three months ... to study the issue," he said. Hermannson implied that any steps endangering frozen-fish sales to the U.S. were out of the question — an obvious reference to speculation that Iceland might follow the example of Japan and Norway.

Meanwhile, scores of workers at the Hvalfjörður station were busy cutting up whales being brought in at the rate of two or three during each shift. Remarked Kristján Loftsson, manager of the company: "The resolution passed in Brighton totally contradicts the charter of the International Whaling Commission, which ... calls for protection of the stocks and exploitation of them at levels consistent with scientific findings."

Loftsson added: "What has been going on seems calculated for destroying the IWC ... At the recent meeting, nine nations that don't engage in whaling at all were admitted as members ... Some of the new delegates don't even live in these countries. Four of them are residents of the U.S. As a matter of fact, it seems that votes at the IWC are simply being sold ..."

Iceland has been a target for foreign anti-whaling groups in the recent past. The Greenpeace organization sent a vessel to this country in the summers of 1978 and 1979 to interfere with operations from the Hvalfjörður station — leading to a Coast Guard action and a court injunction against the unwelcome visitors.

A whole-page ad appeared in the European edition of *Newsweek* on the eve of the Brighton meeting of the IWC. The caption read: The War Against the Whales; displayed under it was a drawing of a whale harpooned with the Norwegian, Icelandic, Japanese and Soviet flags. This was paid for by an American organization called the Animal Welfare Institute, which has a post-office address in Washington D.C.

Some time ago, the head of the Marine Research Institute in Reykjavík, Jón Jónsson, offered the following nutshell analysis: "The history of whaling in the world, regrettably, is a tale of greed and improvidence, though there are some noteworthy exceptions, such as Icelandic whal-

ing. We Icelanders would indeed be fortunate if we could manage all of our fisheries so successfully."

New findings confirming that evaluation were submitted recently, after the research vessel Árni Fridriksson returned to Reykjavík, upon the completion of a month-long expedition for monitoring whale populations in Icelandic waters. Volunteered biologist Jóhann Sigurjónsson:

"There is a lot of whales in the ocean around Iceland ... as we observed last year, too. The finbacks [the mainstay of the Hvalfjörður station] are particularly numerous. We also frequently noticed humpbacks and blue whales. These two stocks, which have been totally protected for a long time, seem well on the way toward recovery."

Naturally, the media debate of the IWC whaling ban clarified the industry's contribution to the national economy. Shipments from the Hvalfjörður facility to foreign buyers last year — overwhelmingly to Japan, as always in the recent past — were worth around 82 million krónur, accounting for 1.25% of total export values.

CSO: 5200/2119

EXPERTS AGREE: TRAWLER FLEET TOO LARGE FOR FISH STOCKS

Reykjavik NEWS FROM ICELAND in English Sep 82 pp 1-2

[Text]

All parties concerned agree in principle that Iceland's fishing capacity is excessive by a wide margin, given the sustainable effort levels and other relevant factors. But drafting workable policies for scaling down the fleet, not least the trawler segment, remains a formidable challenge — and it is easy to understand why. With the long-standing government commitment to regional development and full employment, political leaders have good reasons to worry about the side effects of any no-nonsense approach.

The chairman of a government panel on economic policy-making, Thórdur Fridjónsson, recently summarized the body's newest recommendations as follows: "An official stance on how many fishing vessels should be operated is necessary ... In debating the long-term prospects of the fishing fleet ... we must start with definite premises on possible annual catches. Under current circumstances, continued growth of the fishing capacity is pointless. I think that some reduction in the size of the trawler fleet is a fundamental requisite ..."

Some critics even argue that the gross tonnage of the Icelandic fishing fleet — reported as 106,192 GRT at the beginning of this year — is twice what seems justified by the condition of stocks in surrounding waters. Two alarming developments in the recent past underscore the industry's basic problem.

Many of the 20-odd fish reduction plants will remain largely idle until year's end or longer, due to the near-collapse of the once-teeming capelin stock (NFI, June). A recent meeting involving Icelandic, Norwegian and EEC (European Economic Community) fisheries planners voted to urge that capelin in this region of the Atlantic be given a respite until the spawning population grows to an estimated 400,000 tons.

And, to make matters worse, cod landings in the first six months of this year were down by approximately 76,000 tons from the mid-1981 figure. Marine biologists, however, tended to explain the demersal shortfall in terms of abnormally low ocean temperatures and attendant dispersal of the fish — not as evidence of a sudden stock decline (NFI, August).